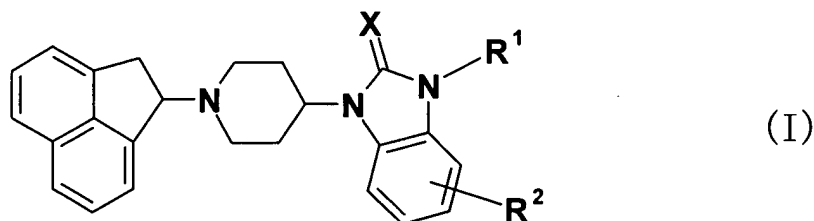


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)**

**10. (Currently Amended)** A compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) lower alkyl,
- (3) lower alkenyl,
- (4) C(O) lower alkyl,
- (5) C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (6) C(O) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (7) lower alkyl carboxyl,
- (8) lower alkyl C(O) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (9) lower alkyl C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (10) lower alkenyl C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (11) lower alkyl O lower alkyl,
- (12) lower alkyl-C(O)NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>,
- (13) S(O)<sub>2</sub> lower alkyl,
- (14) S(O)<sub>2</sub> phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (15) lower alkyl S lower alkyl,
- (16) lower alkyl S(O) lower alkyl,

~~(17) lower alkyl-S(O)<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl,~~

~~(18) lower alkyl-S(O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>,~~

~~(19) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), or~~

~~(20) benzyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),~~

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, trifluoromethyl, nitro, amino or cyano, and

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>

may be the same or different, and each is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl, or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), and

X— is O or S,

a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto[[,]] or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**11. (Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 10, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, and X is O a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**12. (Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 10, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is ~~C(O)-lower alkyl, lower alkyl-C(O)NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup> (either R<sup>3</sup> or R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen) or lower alkyl-C(O)NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup> wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),~~ a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The compound of claim 10, which is selected from  
(RS)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,  
(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,

~~(S)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~  
~~(R)-3-acetyl-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~  
~~(R)-2-{3-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-benzoimidazol-1-yl}-N-~~  
~~methylacetamide,~~  
and  
~~(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(2-oxo-2-piperazin-1-ylethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-~~  
~~benzoimidazol-2-one~~

a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

#### Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

**21. (Currently Amended)** A method of preventing and/or treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of claim 10, a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient.

**22. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein the sleep disorder is a circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

**23. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is jet-lag syndrome.

**24. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is shift-work sleep disorder.

**25. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is a delayed sleep phase syndrome.

**26. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, used for preventing and/or treating symptoms involved in a geriatric circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

- 27. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, used for bright light therapy.
- 28. (New)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the compound of claim 10, a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.